

EDITORIAL

In the newsletter you will find:

- o Final details of our 9th National Reunion to be held in Canberra, ACT in October/November, 2008

- o As an attachment

- o As an attachment

- o As an attachment

- o Some further reports on the sad loss of a number of our colleagues.

- o News from our various Groups within Australia and Overseas.

- o More HMAS Sydney (WW2 Cruiser) stories.

- o Information re a new Medallion.

- o Other matters of general interest.

We do live in a country of droughts and flooding rains and Australia continues to live up to its reputation!

There have been massive downpours of rain and consequential floods in widespread areas

For others it is a continuation of the drought and water restrictions , apparently a natural part of our landscape recycling and rejuvenation activity!

Some time it will rain for those still waiting and refresh the parched countryside and restore some fresh water to the creeks and rivers so vital to our way of life!

OUR 9TH NATIONAL REUNION, 2008

At the National Committee Meeting held on 12th December, 2007 the outcome of the Questionnaires returned by our members showed there was strong support for the Proposed 9th National Reunion

Since that date all stops have been out finalising details and firming up on events, tours, transport and venues! There as been a massive amount of activity behind the scenes getting everything

The Reunion Programme follows our general well proven formula of:

- o Registration followed by a Meet & Greet Evening
- o A formal Official Dinner with a Guest Speaker. Additionally, the Chief Minister, ACT will give an opening Welcome

Address.

- o A mixture of interesting tours and visits
- o Advice of DIY tours and visits
- o Advice on accommodation.

This newsletter was originally intended to be datelined as 31st December, 2007, however, it was necessary to delay publication until all of the reunion details had been finalised 1st January, 2008! ***So , a Happy New Year to all our readers!***

As attachments to this newsletter, you will find:

- o The complete **Reunion Programme** with costs and timing.
- o Two **Booking Sheets**, one copy to forward to the Treasurer, John Bannister and one copy for you to retain for your records.
- o An **Accommodation Sheet** listing the two selected **Nominated Hotels** with the relevant details.

Please note that the Reunion Transport during the Reunion will operate to and from those two hotels.

The booking of accommodation and travel to and from the reunion and payment thereof is the sole responsibility of the reunion attendee. We recommend the Coach/Bus transport will only operate to and from the hotels.

The Reunion Committee reserves its right to cancel, or modify, any or all events/visits/tours if found necessary for whatever reason. At this stage we do not envisage that action being necessary.

In the final programme you will note that two Lake Burley Griffin cruises (with 3 course meals) have been arranged. The MV Southern Cross has a capacity limit of 75 persons per cruise and the indicated demand from the returned Questionnaires indicated greater than one cruise being necessary. One cruise is scheduled for the Friday evening and the other is listed for the Saturday noon. So, please state your preference of cruise

The Reunion Committee thanks those who took the time and effort to return the Questionnaires included with Newsletter No. 64

You are urged to read the attached material very carefully. We are sure you will agree that it is a very entertaining programme with attractive costings providing value for money!

Please make your accommodation bookings early to avoid disappointment and to provide you with maximum choice! Bear in mind the advantages of using the Hotels.

Bus/Coach Transport has been arranged for the tours and events where required. You will find the Bus/Coach fares indicated in the Reunion Programme and Booking Sheet. In some instances the Bus/Coach fare is included in the tour/event cost or is itemized separately.

The Reunion Committee believes that the Reunion Programme will provide you with a good sample of what Canberra has to offer.

Recommended dress for the various events/functions will be dealt with in the next Newsletter

REMEMBER

WHERE: CANBERRA, ACT

WHEN: TUESDAY, 28 OCTOBER, 2008
to
SUNDAY, 2 NOVEMBER, 2008

SUGGESTION: COMBINE IT WITH A HOLIDAY AND MAKE IT A MOST MEMORABLE TIME!
The 9th National Reunion Committee

Roslyn (Ros) Crawley - Conference Convenor
Jim Little - ACT Convenor
John Bannister - Treasurer

Jim Little will answer questions relating to the Reunion details are:

Tel: 02 6288 7462

Email: jlittle@actewagl.net.au

The preferred method for questions would be by using Email.

John Bannister, the Treasurer will handle all reunion Receipts, Payments and Refunds. His contact details are:

Address: 6 Tilley Court, Marion, SA 5043

Tel: 08 8298 1855

Email: johnban@adam.com.au

Moira & John Saywell will assist as necessary. Contact details:

Tel: 08 8344 1554

Email: jssaywell@optusnet.com.au

DONATIONS

Since our last newsletter we have received donations from those named below:-

*John Berry, Ron Bullock, Lloyd Cheetham,
Bill Davies, Errol Delaney, R.K. (Bob) Green,
Alf Haurat, David Innes, Roy Jewell, Andy Jerz n a, Reg Labone, Tom Lalley, Peter Lane,
Bill Mc Cormick, Peter McGurk, Ron Melville, Peter O Jack Reid, Tom Reid,
Graeme Russell, Ray Sommerville, Peter Stewart and Gordon Wood.*

Thank you everyone for your generosity, it is very much appreciated.

We keep our costs to an absolute minimum with our volunteer organisation bearing personally a measure of the running expenses. For this we are grateful for their dedication and generosity.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS/

ADDITIONS

When advising of your address changes it is of great assistance to us if you also advise of changes to your telephone/fax/mobile telephone/e-mail addresses as well - if not known initially then please let us know as soon as possible. It all helps to make life a little easier! Recent changes/additions of address notified to us are:-

Jim Lane has moved from Malvern to East Malvern in Victoria.

Joe Roberts now has a contact address in Keswick, South Australia.

Fred Varris

Please keep us informed of your changes of addresses, and also update us with your telephone numbers, Fax and Email etc.

If you note any incorrect details on our mailing labels please inform John Saywell.

MAIL RETURNED/NON DELIVERY

Unfortunately a number of Newsletter mailouts are returned for a number of reasons. Sometimes this is simply because the addressee has overlooked informing us of a change of address. On other occasions it has more ominous overtones. We had two s6 4 mailout.

Keith Foley Mail returned, was at Tamarama, NSW.

Ray Harris Mail returned, was at Alexandra Hills, Qld.



NEW FINDS

We are always pleased to advise of some .

However, on this occasion we do not have any new finds to record.

Please, any of our readers, if you are able to provide contact addresses, leads, names, preferably with given names/ initials of aware that

FURTHER CHANGES OF THE GUARD IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

At the WA Group BBQ Luncheon, held at the Swan Yatch Club on 2nd December, 2007, Allen Hoskins formally announced his retirement as the WA Group Convenor. Ron Rowe has accepted the WA Group Convenor role and

In achieving this Allen has been assisted in the past by his wife, Elaine, Bob & Lynn Flett, Ron & Barbara Rowe as well as Vic & Gwen Rann. The National Committee is very grateful to the WA Group organisers, past and present, for their dedication!

We congratulate Ron Rowe in assuming the role of WA Group Convenor and know that he will take the group to another level, due to his enthusiasm and energy. Ron is ably assisted by an also enthusiastic Deputy Convenor in Vic Rann.

Allen Hoskins, in stepping down, shortly prior to becoming an Octogenarian, said he had enjoyed his involvement at the helm, but was confident he was handing over to competent, capable younger members.

Congratulations and thanks all round!

HELP!

I am **Bruce Hedley** ex LREM and then POEC and would like to make contact with any one who may remember me. I joined

in 1957 and became an Instructor at Cerberus in 1967. I was declared TPI around 2000 and retired much to my displeasure as I really enjoyed being in the job. Many regards to all who may remember me as it was the best time of my life and I do hope I helped others to become Real Greenies!

My contact details are:

92 Forest Drive, Frankston North, Vic. 3200

Tel: 03 9786 5119 Mob: 0429 485 734

Email: hedleyb@optusnet.com.au



CAN YOU HELP?

With our readers help, Bernard (Brads) Bradley has volunteered to compile a database of

What is envisaged is to collect as many photographs of individual Radio Mechanics as possible in a database, together with their Full Name, Nickname and their Official Number (which is a unique identifier). In the event of the person submitting the ~~photographs~~ ~~do not know for other individuals~~ ~~mailing~~ please ensure that the photographs have been scanned to a reasonable quality.

If photographs are mailed and are required to be returned it will assist greatly if the sender would kindly enclose a suitable sized stamped/addressed envelope. Please ensure adequate identification details are provided with any group photographs

Bernard (Brads) Bradley may be contacted at:

8 Worrigea Street, Nowra, NSW 2541.

Tel. No: 02 4421 2372

Email: bbradley@exemail.com.au

IN MEMORIUM

It is with regret we report the sad passing of a number of our colleagues:

o **Hilton (Tony) Ramsay**, peacefully at home in Hornsby, NSW on 19th January, 2008 at age 82 years. Tony was born in Enfield, NSW on 8th August, 1925.

Prior to enlisting in the RANR during WW2 Tony was a Sound Mechanic; Tony was Mobilised on 21 st May, 1943 as an Ordinary Seaman 2nd Class and allotted O/No. S/8235 i.e. Home Port of Sydney. Whilst at HMAS Cerberus undergoing Seaman training, Tony was selected for Radio Mechanic Technical Training at Melbourne Technical College (MTC) and was Dr

after to HMAS Lonsdale. Whilst under training at MTC Tony became ill and spent some time in the 115th Australian General Hospital and for a time was on the sick list. This was the last RAN Radio Mechanics Class put through MTC during WW2. Due to further sickness Tony completed his MTC Technical Training with 49A RAAF Course at the MTC.

On completion of the MTC Technical Training Course it was then back to HMAS Cerberus and further technical training and then a draft to HMAS Harman where Tony was given yet more technical training in Shore Wireless equipment, including the Belconnen Transmitting Station equipment.

Tony was Rated Radio Mechanic (S) on the 23rd April, 1944 and transferred to the RAN and allotted O/No. 27131. On the following day Tony was Rated Leading Radio Mechanic (S).

Next followed drafts to HMAS Penguin, then HMAS Moreton and assigned to the HMAML Base where he was promoted to Acting Petty Officer Radio Mechanic. Subsequent drafts were to Finschaven, New Guinea, Madang TX Station, HMAS Magnetic, Dreger Harbour, HMAS Ping Wo, Tarangau at which Base he was confirmed as a Petty Officer (S). Next was a draft to HMAS Diamantina and back to HMAS Rushcutter from where he was Demobilised on 25th June, 1946.

After Demobilisation in 1946 Tony joined the family business which specialised in electrical work. In 1978 when the business was disposed of Tony took an early retirement at the age of 53 years.

A celebration of Tony's 90th birthday was held on 1st January, 2008. Some 130 people were in attendance at the service and included some of Tony's family. Tony is survived by his wife, Eunice, of 62 years, daughter Lynette and son-in-law Neil Silver, daughter Rhonda and son-in-law Ross Hayes, grandchildren Stuart, Martyn, Vashti and Brad and great grandchildren Natasha, Johnathon and Oliver.

Tony Ramsay was the Association's NSW Deputy Convenor, continuously, since 1994, assisting George Stevens in arranging functions for the NSW Group. He first assumed the role of NSW Deputy Convenor at the planning stage of the 1994 Sydney Reunion. We appreciated greatly, Tony

o Robert John Bridgen on 20th October, 2007 in Adelaide, South Australia at age 84 years.

Robert, or Bob, as he was known by all was born in Laura, South Australia

Bob grew up in

During WW2 Bob initially joined the Australian Military Force (AMF), with Service No. S42586, on 16th July, 1942 at age 18 years and served in that Force until 2nd May, 1943. On 3rd May, 1943 he enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy Reserve with O/No. PA3957, his Home Port being Port Adelaide. Bob was Mobilised as an Ordinary Seaman the following week, on 10th May, 1943.

Whilst undergoing Seaman Training at HMAS Cerberus, Bob was selected to undergo Radio Mechanic Technical Training at Melbourne Technical College (MTC) and was Drafted to HMAS Lonsdale; Bob was allotted to 26 RAN Class at MTC. Drafted back to HMAS Cerberus for further technical training at the RAN Signal School. On completion of that training Bob was Rated Radio Mechanic (W) on 23rd March, 1944 and transferred to the RAN with O/No. 27055 and then Rated Acting Leading

Radio Mechanic (W) the following day. The next phase of Bob HMAS Watson, HMAS Torrens and then to sea in the Corvette, HMAS Gawler on 8th April, 1945 in which ship he remained until 17th April, 1946. Bob was Rated Acting Petty Officer Radio Mechanic on 24th March, 1945 and confirmed in that Rating on 24th March, 1946. Further Drafts followed to HMAS Platypus, HMAS Watson and then the River Class Frigate, HMAS Murchison. In the final stages of Bob via HMAS Lonsdale and HMAS Torrens before being Demobilised on 20th May, 1947, then as PO RM.

Bob had married his first wife, Nancy Archer, in Sydney while serving in the RAN on 23rd March, 1946.

Following his RAN Service, Bob Qualified as a Teacher and taught in a One Teacher Country School Booleroo called and so Bob and his young family went to Booleroo Centre and took over the running of the Booleroo Centre Hotel and Bakery.

Bob, in time, became Manager of the Barley Board and Agent for just about anything and everything in Booleroo Centre!

Bob became Secretary/Manager of the Booleroo Health Service from 1953 to 1982 and was a Life Member of that Board. When any organisation in Booleroo needed a volunteer, Bob was readily forthcoming and either volunteered his own services or those of his growing sons

He was a Past Grand Master of The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of SA & NT and was an active member of the Booleroo Centre RSL Sub-Branch. Bob didn't play Football, Cricket and Golf.

Nancy, Bob died March, 1995 and Bob married Daphne in 1998.

A Funeral Service was held for Bob at the Acacia Chapel, Enfield Memorial Park, South Australia on 26th October, 2007 followed by a private burial service in the cemetery lawn area opposite his old home in Clearview.

Bob is survived by his wife Daphne, three sons, Greg, Neil and Chris, step-children, Helen, Bruce and Dean as well as 17 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

o David Noel Morton Fearon AM, we sadly learn passed away during 2007 th December, 1923.

David was a Medical Student at Melbourne University when he enlisted in the RANR on 16th March, 1943. He was mobilised the following day as an Ordinary Seaman with O/No. PM6033 and Home Port of Melbourne. After Rookie Training at HMAS Cerberus he then was given seamanship training and an introduction to Submarine Detection, Torpedoes, Bren, Vickers and Lewis Guns before being selected for Radio Mechanic Training at the Melbourne Technical College. David was assigned to 25RAN Class and acquired the Nickname of

On completion of his technical training course at MTC he was Drafted from HMAS Lonsdale back to HMAS Cerberus for further technical training at the RAN signal School and Rated Radio Mechanic (W) on the 9th March, 1944 and A/Ldg Radio Mechanic (W) the following day.

Then it was immediately off to HMAS Rushcutter for Radar Technical Training at the RAN Radio School at South Head, Sydney. A sea draft followed in HMAS Bungaree with some time in Madang, in New Guinea.

David was Rated Acting PORM(W) on 10th March, 1945 and was provided with a Free Discharge on 24th April, 1945 to enable him to resume his medical studies at Melbourne University. He completed his medical studies under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme (CRTS), worked at the Alfred Hospital for one year and then completed 5 years at the Melbourne Childrens

Most of David

At the time of his retirement in 1988, David was Chief Medical Officer of Family Health Services, Victoria and Honary Associate in Paediatrics, Monash Medical Centre. David was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia i.e. an AM in 1987 for M.B.S. Melbourne University, 1951

- D.P.H. (Sydney University), 1962
- Fellow Royal Aust. College of Medical Adminstration
- Member Australian College of Paediatrics

Davidthe 2004 Queen

o Peter Bertelsen Lane, on Saturday, 12th January, 2008, in Queensland at age 76 years after a long battle with emphysema.

Peter, the elder of twin boys, was born on 12th June, 1931 at Kilcoy, Queensland to Annie and Bill Lane.

On 22nd September, 1949 Peter joined the RAN as a Recruit (LB), in the Electrical Branch and was allocated O/No. R37714. After some initial technical training at the Electrical School, HMAS Cerberus Peter was selected for future training as a Radio Electricians Mate(Air). This technical training was completed at HMAS Albatross, the Air Station at Nowra, NSW where Peter was Rated as a Radio Electricians Mate (Air) 1st Class with seniority of 22nd May, 1951. Next Peter was assigned to 817 Squadron (Firefly Aircraft) in which he served at HMAS Albatross and at sea in HMAS Sydney (aircraft carrier).

In due course Peter returned to HMAS Cerberus to undergo a Leading Radio Electricians Mate (Air) course of technical training Rated as an Acting LREM(Air) and after 12 months being confirmed as LREM(Air) on 22nd August, 1954 whilst serving at HMAS Albatross. Peter later served in 805 Squadron (helicopters) on board HMAS Sydney and alternated between HMAS Sydney and HMAS Albatross.

When HMAS Vengeance (aircraft carrier) was being returned to the Royal Navy in 1955 Peter was Drafted to it and travelled to the UK where he was sent to the Royal Navy Air Station, Culdrose, in Cornwall where he received technical training relating to the then new Fairey Gannet aircraft about to be introduced into RAN Service.

Subsequently, Peter was assigned to 816 Squadron (Gannet Aircraft) and joined the new aircraft carrier, HMAS Melbourne for its maiden voyage to Australia.

On arrival back in Australia in June, 1956 Peter was Drafted back to HMAS Albatross with 816 Squadron. In 1957 Peter was sent to HMAS Cerberus for a Petty Officer Radio Electrician (Air) technical course and was Rated as Acting Petty Officer Radio Electrician (Air) on 8th November, 1957; he was confirmed in that Rating on 8th November, 1958.

Peterst September, 1961 as a P.O.R.E(Air).

Post RAN Peter joined the Bureau of Meteorology with an initial posting to Macquarie Island under the banner of the Australian Antarctic Research Expedition. Several other Bureau of Meteorology postings followed in WA, NSW, Qld and South Australia before he accepted a position with the Guided Weapons Electronic Support Facility (GWESF) at St. Marys in Sydney.

In 1971 Peter accepted another 12 months assignment to Macquarie Island. On return from there he rejoined GWESF and remained with that organisation until he retired in 1988. At this time Peter moved to Deception Bay, Qld and enjoyed playing golf, fishing and spent a lot of time painting in oils.

A Service to Celebrate Peterth January, 2008.

Peter is survived by his wife, Roslyn and four daughters, Sylvia, Brenda, Erica and Lara, grandchildren, Thomas, Alice, Stuart and Geoffrey.

o Charles Thomas Mudd/Benedict Mudd (known to his ex Navy mates as Charlie or Ben) passed away on Saturday, 5th January, 2008 at Toodyay, Western Australia.

Charles Thomas Mudd was born in Brisbane, Qld, on 29th August, 1931, during the Great Depression; his parents were Ethel C & Charles Leonard Mudd.

Prior to enlisting in the RAN, "Charlie" was employed as a Storeman; he enlisted in Brisbane on 21st July, 1950 for an initial engagement of 6 years, was allocated the Official Number of R38553 & then entered into the Electrical Branch with the Rating of Recruit (LB). After his Parade Ground/ Recruit Training at HMAS Cerberus he then underwent technical training at the Electrical School & was Rated as Radio Electricians Mate 2nd Class on 21st January, 1951.

Further technical training continued at Cerberus "L" School until 7th September, 1951 when he was Drafted to HMAS Watson, South Head, Sydney for exposure to the technicalities of RAN Radar equipment & ancillary devices before being Drafted back to HMAS Cerberus on 8th December, 1951. Charlie's first sea-going Draft was to HMAS Condamine on 9th January, 1952, on board which he was Rated as a Radio Electricians Mate 1st Class on 5th April 1952. HMAS Condamine was assigned for duty in the on-going Korean War and so Charlie had Operational Service in the Korean War from 3rd July, 1952 until 11th April, 1953.

His Operational Service entitled Charlie to the United Nations Korean War Medal, the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 the Korea Medal & the Returned from Active Service Badge.

Next, Charlie served in HMAS Barwon from 24th July, 1953 until 21st February, 1954 during which time he was Rated Acting Leading Radio Electricians Mate (Provisional) on 1st January, 1954. Having signed on for an extra period, Charlie successfully completed his LREM Qualifying Course at the HMAS Cerberus "L" School on 20th November, 1954 & then was Drafted for further sea-going service in HMAS Quadrant on 23rd November, 1954. On 1st January, 1955 Charlie was Confirmed in his Rating of Leading Radio Electricians Mate. During 1955 there was a title change to Leading Radio Electrical Mechanic. On 30th April, 1955, Charlie was Drafted to HMAS Vengeance, the Aircraft Carrier on-loan to the RAN from the Royal Navy during the period of the delayed delivery of the new angled-deck aircraft carrier, HMAS Melbourne. Charlie was a member of Vengeance's crew when it was returned to the United Kingdom for hand-over to the Royal Navy in 1955. Charlie was a member of the Commissioning crew of HMAS Melbourne when it Commissioned on 25th October, 1955 in the United Kingdom and subsequently completed its Trials and Work-ups before its maiden voyage to Australia.

Then it was time for some land-based service at HMAS Harman, the, then, RAN's most important Communications Station, located in the ACT. from 16th November, 1956 until being "Discharged Engagement Expired" on 22nd October, 1957.

After his RAN service Charlie entered the Benedictine Monastery at New Norcia, Western Australia - at this time Charlie changed his name to Benedict & became known to his Ex Naval mates as "Ben"! Ben remained in the New Norcia Monastery until some years ago when his health became a problem.

When the RAN Radio Mechanics Association held their National Reunion in Perth during 2002, Benedict Mudd had been instrumental in arranging the Association's tour of the New Norcia Monastery.

o Jean Isabel Parry, passed away peacefully in Nambour, Qld. on 2nd December, 2007. Jean was the wife of Colwyn Parry who was a Torrens era Radio Mechanic.

Jean had medical problems for some time and was finally entered into the hospital in Nambour several weeks prior to her decease.

Colwyn and Jean were both Wards of Legacy, met in 1947 and were married in December, 1951.

Post RAN Colwyn joined the New Guinea Constabulary and they lived in New Guinea until 1976, 2 weeks prior to Independence being granted to New Guinea. At that time Colwyn held the Rank of Superintendent. Whilst in New Guinea three daughters were born to Jean and Colwyn; twins, Roslyn and Rhonda were born in Rabaul and later, Catherine was born in Lae.

Back in Australia, both Jean and Colwyn undertook University studies with Jean volunteering to give up her studies to provide support to the family in order for Colwyn to complete his studies. Jean was very active in Tennis, Basketball and Bridge.

A celebration and thanksgiving of Jeanth December, 2007.

Jean is survived by Colwyn, daughters, Roslyn, Rhonda and Catherine and grandchildren, Phoebe, Ana and Gorby.

o **Bruce Marshall Watkins**, we sadly learn passed away during 2007. Bruce was not in our membership list and was probably unaware of our existence. Although we knew of him as a WW2, Hostilities Only Radio Mechanic we had not been succesful in tracing him. Corby Williams had noticed Bruce Watkinsost

Bruce was born in Malmsbury, Victoria on 15th September, 1924.

Bruce joined the RANR during WW2, on 6th May, 1942 with O/No. PM4513. Initially Bruce was a Sick Berth Attendant (Probationary) 2nd Class, however, in November, 1942 he was selected for Wireless Mechanic Training at the Melbourne Technical College and Drafted to HMAS Lonsdale.

On completion of the Wireless Mechanic Technical Training at Melbourne Technical College Bruce was Drafted back to HMAS Cerberus 23rd May, 1943 for further technical training after which he was Rated as Wireless Mechanic on 17th June, 1943 and as Acting Leading Wireless Mecahanic on 28th June, 1943. At that time, Bruce was transferred to the RAN and allotted O/No. 26578.

Next was a draft to HMAS Rushcutter

During his RAN Service Bruce also served in HMAS Penguin, Barcoo, RAN Station 284, HMAS Moreton, Watson, Napier, Quality and Bataan. He was confirmed as a Petty Officer Radio Mechanic on 28th December, 1945 and was Demobilised on 10th July, 1946. Post RAN, we learnt that Bruce became a Bank Manager in Albury, NSW.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families.

Lest we forget !

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GROUP NEWS

The WA Group of our Association held a BBQ meeting at the Swan Yacht Club on Sunday, 2nd December, 2007. The weather was normal for this part of the country. Mid twenties, sun shining, birds chirping in a very light breeze. Just sufficient for the many boats on display to provide a beautiful spectacle.

Thirty five attendees included: Arty Boyd & Wendy, John & Judith Cleary, Reg & Margaret Doran with Taffy, an nish with son Mark and wife Denise, Betty Marshall, Jim & Maree Preston, Vic & Gwenda Rann and Ron & Barbara Rowe.

Apologies were received from Denis & Maree Norriss, Lyle O

Unfortunately one of our number has been on the very serious list. Ken Hughes was in intensive care for several weeks following a motor cycle accident in the north of our state. Progress has been very slow but he is improving by the day, thanks to the marvel of modern

medicine. Our thoughts and prayers are with Amy and the family.

Allen Hoskins opened proceedings by formally stepping down from the helm and passing same on to Ron Rowe. Ron thanked Allen and Elaine for the many years of service they have given our group, making it the success we have today. Ron also thanked Bob and Lyn Flett for their much valued contributions over the years.

Thanks to Brian Evans, a few spare copies of the book, Navy 2006 the last meeting.

As usual, the noise level was high which is a good sign everybody is involved in conversation and enjoying themselves. We celebrated a few milestones: Octogenarians Maree Preston (the next day), Betty Marshall (two days before Xmas) and Diedrie Macnish in January. Just a chicken among them was Jenny Duperouzel who turned 77 on the day. Many happy returns to you all.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, 9 March, 2008.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Ron Rowe

WA BBQ LUNCHEON

Sunday, 9th March, 2008

1130 for 1200 -1430

SWAN YACHT CLUB

REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR NAME TAG

RSVP

Vic Rann 08 9354 5529 or email vicandgwen@optusnet.com.au

Or

Ron Rowe 08 9295 0851 or email

rower65@bigpond.net.au

Contacts:

Ron Rowe 08 9295 0851

Email: rower65@bigpond.net.au

Vic Rann 08 9354 5529

Email: vicandgwen@optusnet.com.au

SANT GROUP NEWS

The SANT Group had another very successful Luncheon on Sunday, 4th November, 2007 at the Hampstead Hotel, Collinswood. There was much conversation whilst catching up with each other

Ron & Janice Akeroyd , Rod & Marlene Bannon, Ken & Jo Bryant, Sheila Campbell & Ron , Jim & Thelma Cunneen, Pat & Julie Delavia, Nadean Egan, Alison Kerr, Glen & Margaret Lewis, Sid & Joan May, Archie McArthur, M

ike Olden , Tom & Dulcie Palmer , Bill Russack, John & Moira Saywell, Colin Shillabeer, and Myra Tindal.

Note: Mick Olden, from Western Australia, was visiting relatives in Adelaide and took the opportunity to join in the SA Group Luncheon where he was made most welcome.

Apologies were received from:-

*John & Joy Bannister, John & Joan Berry,
Kevin & Joan Bonney , Michael & Kathleen Cain , Kevin Egan, Gil & Laura Harrington, Chris & Doris Lambert,
Meg McArthur, Von Peterson, Greg & Nancy Sharp, Bill & Margaret Stevens , Brian & Val Sweeney and Dick & Jean Withers .*

Our thoughts and wishes are sent to those who are not enjoying the best of health at this time.

An invitation has been received from the Elizabeth Navy Club inviting our members to attend a luncheon on Saturday, 1st March, 2008 starting with Sherries at 1230 for 1300. The venue is Captain Waller Memorial Hall, 8 Chivell Street, Elizabeth South. The cost of lunch is \$15.00 per head. Please RSVP before 24th February, 2008 to: Robin Wood robin301@bigpond.com

Contacts: Kevin Bonney (08) 8337 3051
Ken Bryant (08) 8265 4909
John Saywell (08) 8344 1554

QUEENSLAND GROUP NEWS

We are endeavoring to arrange a 1st May in conjunction with the *Ron Hobba*

Contacts:

Convenor: Ron Hobba

7 Bloomfield Place, Carina, Qld 4152

Tel. No. (07) 3843 2207

Email: ronandfred@bigpond.com

Deputy Convenor: John Macartney

PO Box 689, Childers, Qld. 4660

Tel. No. (07) 4126 3445

Email: jrmaca@bigpond.com

NEW SOUTH WALES GROUP NEWS

Sadly, we report on the loss of our NSW Deputy Convenor, Tony Ramsay who passed away on Saturday, 19th January,

2008. Tony will be missed by many. Our condolences go out to Eunice and the Ramsay family.

George Stevens continues to recover slowly from his recent illness and has undergone extensive tests to resolve his correct diagnosis and treatment. As a consequence of the above two factors other activities in NSW Group have taken a We have pleaded in the past for volunteers in NSW to step forward to assume the role of Group Convenor and Deputy Convenor, but, to date, not one volunteer! Please,

Contacts: George or Shirley Stevens:

Tel. No: (02) 9456 4007 email: gws@pacific.net.au

VICTORIA/TASMANIA GROUP NEWS

Our luncheon was held on 7th November, 2007 at the Dandenong RSL. This was a most enjoyable get-together although it was disappointing that only twelve of our members were present, i.e.

Jack & Winsome Cations, Grace Davies (sister of Bill Poppins), Rina Donald, Kevin & Rina Mills, Val Poppins, Ted Ramus, Ian Shackleton, Lofty & Sue Watson and Lorraine & John Laughton .

Apologies were received from:

Walter Bennett , Helen Charlton , Mick & Phyl George, Ailsa Holman, Jim Lane, Allan & Fran Long, De a n Penglase, Ken & Marie Pryor, Kevin Roper and Clyde & Shirley Scaife.

Everyone is looking forward to the Canberra Reunion in October. It was lovely to have Rina Donald back with us again These lunches are most enjoyable and it would be really great if a few more members could join us. The proposed dates for meetings in 2008 are: 6th February, 29th May, 20th August and 19th November. Please put these dates in your diary and come and join us for a great lunch.

I am also the National Secretary of the HMAS Bataan Veterans Association and we are trying to locate any crew members. Being a Tribal Class Destroyer we are very proud to carry on the tradition.

Regards,

J ohn Laughton

Our next luncheon will be held on Wednesday, 6th February, 2008, at the Dandenong RSL Club at 11.30am for a meeting prior to lunch. Please advise your attendance to the contacts below.

Contacts:

John Laughton, 36 Tamarisk Road, Narre Warren, Vic. 3805. Tel. No. (03) 9704 7799; Mob. No. 0417 336 423; Email: johnfl@aapt.net.au or

Ian Shackleton, 254 Lawrence Rd, Mt. Waverley, Vic. 3149. Tel. No. (03) 9802 7694

Mick George, 10 Bruce Street, Laverton, Vic. 3028

Tel. No. 03 9369 5805; Mob No. 0401 583 319

ACT GROUP NEWS

The main preoccupation of the ACT Group has been the continuation of planning and organising the 9th National Reunion of the RAN Radio Mechanics Association to occur in Canberra from 28th October, 2008 to 2nd November, 2008.

The final reunion programme is included with this newsletter. You are encouraged to participate in this reunion which will be entertaining and enjoyable. Ros Crawley is greatly thanked for her energy and knowledge of the Canberra Convention/Conference & tourism scene. Ros has contributed significantly in the assembly of the Reunion Programme! Jim Little has also played a role during the planning period and will now be the focal point for questions relating to the forthcoming reunion.

Contact:

Convenor: Jim Little, Tel. No. (02) 6288 7462

Email: jlittle@actewagl.net.au

USA/CANADA GROUP NEWS

On 6th November a group of us including ex LEM(P) Mike Thomas, ex-LETS Des Edwards, my son, two grandsons, a student from the California Maritime Academy and myself visited HMAS Sydney in San Francisco. We were met at the gangway by Chief Petty Officer Electronics Technician Systems Eddie Piekusis. The 3 ex Navy people in our group were from the electrical branch during their service period, so the choice of tour guide was perfect.

We had a good time and it was a pleasure to see the DDG destroyers of the past and had the Navy not upgraded to include the new Evolved Sea Sparrow missiles, and HMAS Sydney was the first ship to test fire this weapon.

Today

While I was in Adelaide in November I was invited aboard HMAS Adelaide FFG01 West in January. When I arrived aboard, there was a film crew from the South Australian Maritime Museum, Port Adelaide interviewing ex-RAN personnel on their views on the RAN, as the Navy. The result of the interviews will be a video loop and that will be displayed in the museum. As I was unexpectedly included in the interviews, I may appear in the video loop.

While there, one of the ex-Pussers being interviewed was someone who was in the same intake as me in July, 1963, served on two ships with me, and whom I had not seen or heard from since May, 1967. We had a very good time filling in the gaps since we last met!

Best regards,

Les Figg

Contact: Les Figg, 583 Valeri Ruth Court,
Santa Clare, California, USA 95050
Email: les_figg@comcast.net or
lfigg@alacritech.com

UK GROUP NEWS

We have received correspondence from Tommy Joyce and Ted Strauss

George (Taff) Hughes has undergone a second bout of chemotherapy and is in remission! We all wish you well Taff!

The UK Group had sent their best wishes to all in Oz for the festive season 2007/2008.

.

Con tact: Tommy Joyce, 1 6 Foxton Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne , U.K. NE32AR

Telephone No. in the UK: 01912 843512

Tommy Joyce may also be contacted via Ted Strauss

Telephone No. in the UK: 01453 542566

Email Address: ted_strauss@btinternet.com

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

A meeting was held on the 12th December, 2007 with the main subject being the proposed 9th National Reunion to be held in Canberra in October, 2008. The results of the Reunion Questionnaire were examined and the committee decided there was enough support for a Reunion and gave it the green light to proceed.

The next meeting is scheduled for 5th March, 2008.

HMAS SYDNEY for the WW2 Cruiser, HMAS Sydney wreck is likely to be delayed until autumn due to contracts for a vessel and equipment yet to be signed.

Commodore Bob Trotter, Director of HMAS Sydney Search Pty. Ltd., advised that his organisation was negotiating with ship providers within the Western Australian oil and gas industry. There is a hope that the search could commence during February

Final preparation for solving Australia greatest WW2 mystery are continuing in earnest with London-based shipwreck hunter, David Mearns, flying, recently, to Germany to add to his obsessive preparations.

In Germany, David Mearns will have another interview with a Kormoran survivor and carry out further research.

The \$4.2 million budget will allow between 30 and 40 days of searching using a deep-tow sonar off the Western

Australian coast.

David Mearns said that when they search the seabed for HMAS Sydney it will be done like you mow a lawn. They will go along a long straight line, turn around and then overlap the previous line and so on. The search will go on 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

ANOTHER HMAS SYDNEY, WW2 CRUISER STORY

A recent letter to the Advertiser, Adelaide, reflected on another story in the saga of the loss of WW2 Cruiser, HMAS Sydney and its entire crew.

The writer was commenting on how in the present time, if an Australian serviceman is lost in Action that the Government leaves no stone unturned to recover the body and repatriate it to Australia. The writer was not complaining that action was not justified but was not happy with what happened in the case of the loss of his father in HMAS Sydney during WW2.

The writer complained that not one successive Australian Government in the 66 years since the loss of Sydney had done very much to determine what had happened to his father and his 644 shipmates.

The writer was particularly upset that after the HMAS Australia/HSK Kormoran action that the lighthouse tender, Cape Otway found 70 or so bodies floating in the waters of Shark Bay. Cape Otway requested from the authorities as to what it was to do was directed,

The writer considered that there had been the greatest cover-up in Australian History since he, as a four year old, lost his father!

KOREAN WAR ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS

Activities to commemorate Korean War Veterans around the 57th anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong and 55 years since the end of the Korean War were boosted by a \$50,000 Australian Government grant announced by the Minister of Veterans' Affairs, 17th October, 2007

The plan included the funding a commemorative Royal Australian Air Force 24th April 2008, social book in Sydney and Warrnambool, memorabilia displays, oral histories and a special reunion.

MEDALLION TO HONOUR NUCLEAR TEST VETERANS

The previous Minister for Veterans Affairs announced, in Media Release, VA179, Wednesday, 17th October, 2008, that, the Anniversary of the end of the British Nuclear Testing Program in Australia will be distributed to those Australians who directly participated in, supported or assisted in the tests.

Mr. Billson said the medallion was commissioned by the Australian Government and will be provided to honour the service of Australian military and civilian personnel who were involved in the British Nuclear Test Program in Australia between 1952 and 1966. The medallion recognises the contribution of those Australians who participated in test programs at the three test

sites of the Monte Bellow Islands in WA and Maralinga and Emu Field in South Australia.

The design of the medallion reflects the significance of the tests and highlights the three test locations. It also features the Commonwealth Coat of Arms and is inscribed with .

Medallions will be distributed to those who directly participated in, supported or assisted in the tests and their widows or widowers. Nuclear Test Participants who have not been contacted by the Department of Veterans

THE RANST SUBMARINE AE1

In Newsletter No. 64 we mentioned that there had been reports that Australia

The RAN completed a survey of the object thought to be the AE1 wreck on the seabed and came to the conclusion that it was a rock, similar in size and shape as the submarine!

So the mystery of where the wreck of AE1 is located remains to be solved on another day!

BELCONNEN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Department of Defence, Defence Support Group has completed the Belconnen Oral History Project.

Fifteen people were put through filmed interviews over a number of months. The fifteen stories gathered will form a significant body of research, recording the social and developmental history of the Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station. All oral histories gathered during the interviews have been deposited with the National Archives so that they are available to anyone wishing to discover more about

A small booklet was produced and was written using quotes from the oral histories, titled Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station 1939-2005. As well as the quotes, the booklet contains photographs and text.

Additionally, a DVD was produced to include a documentary style film using edited sections of the oral history interviews together with photographic images to put the stories into context. The DVD is considered to be useful for public viewing in places such as museums and public libraries.

Each participating interviewee, on completion of the project has been given, a copy of the booklet, a copy of the composite edited documentary DVD, a DVD of the individual

There were a number of the Radio Mechanics Association members contributed to the interviews as well as supplying photographic and other material. Some other interviewees are potential new members for our Association.

In November, 2007 in The Canberra Times appeared an article stating that part of the former Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station land would be released for housing under the home affordability policy announced by the Government prior to the

election. 32 hectares of the site, within the suburb of Lawson would be available for the construction of about 480 houses.

The other 117 hectares would be preserved to protect the habitat of endangered species like the earless dragon and the only known site of the endangered Ginninderra peppercress, a perennial herb.

At one stage, Belconnen Transmitting Station had 38 high frequency transmitters, one low frequency, high powered transmitter, three 190 metre guyed masts and 44 other antennas.

The station played a little known role in passing the results of the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games to the rest of the world.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

We would appreciate learning of your Email address and any subsequent changes. Our current Email listing contains 310 addresses, whereas our Mailout List currently contains 617 addresses. So, please advise John Saywell of your current Email address/update.

John

YOUR HEALTH

TOMATO SAUCE TO THE RESCUE

Most of we matelots have had lashings of tomato sauce while serving in the Navy. We affectionately referred to it as horse

A dash of tomato sauce three times a day can help cut cholesterol levels, so research shows!

The sauce helps lower the level of LDL or

In tests, a group of 21 men and women who added 30 grams, or six teaspoons, of tomato sauce to their daily diet as well as two glasses of tomato juice had a significant drop in their cholesterol levels in just three weeks.

The level of LDL plummeted 13% while overall levels of cholesterol fell 6%

To achieve the same effect with tomato sauce alone, 18 teaspoons of sauce would need to be eaten each day.

HONEY CURE FOR WOUNDS

Looks like we are raiding the larder again! Amid growing concern over drug-resistant super bugs and non-healing wounds that endanger diabetes patients, nature

More than 4,000 years after Egyptians began applying honey to wounds, Derma Sciences Inc., a New Jersey, USA company that makes medicated and other advanced wound care products, began selling the first honey-based dressing in 2007 after its approval by the USA Food and Drug Administration called Medihoney, the product is made of a highly absorbent seaweed

DOCTORS SPREAD DEADLY DISEASES!

Australian research has revealed that ID Badges, their holders and lanyards can harbour dangerous antibiotic

So, it is easy to understand that deadly superbug bacteria is being carried on doctord straps slung around their necks,

potentially infecting sick and vulnerable patients.

The best known superbug, MRSA or methicillin year, killing more than a third of those patients.

Studies previously found the bug was carried on doctors

THE NATIONAL ORGANISATION

PRESIDENT:

John Saywell OAM (08) 8344 1554

Email: jssaywell@optusnet.com.au

VICE PRESIDENT:

George Stevens (02) 9456 4007

Email: gws@pacific.net.au

TREASURER:

John Bannister (08) 8298 1855

Email: johnban@adam.com.au

SECRETARY:

Moirra Saywell

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Moirra & John Saywell As above

CONVENORS & DEPUTIES:

Qld: **Ron Hobba** (07) 3843 2207

Email: ronandfred@bigpond.com

Deputy: **John Macartney** (07) 4126 3445

Email jrmaca@bigpond.com

NSW: **George Stevens** (02) 9456 4007

Email: gws@pacific.net.au

Deputy: **Vacant**

Vic/Tas **John Laughton** (03) 9704 7799

Email johnfl@aapt.net.au

Deputies: **Ian Shackleton** (03) 9802 7694

Mick George (03) 9369 5605

Email: richardgeorge@dodo.com.au

A.C.T. **Jim Little** (02) 6288 7462

Email: jlittle@actewagl.net.au

Deputy: **Vacant**

Sth Aust./N.T.

Kevin Bonney (08) 8337 3051

Deputies: **Ken Bryant** (08) 8265 4909

Michael Cain (08) 8536 4243

Email mrccain@adam.com.au

WA **Ron Rowe** (08) 9295 0851

Email: rower65@bigpond.net.au

Deputy: **Vic Rann** (08) 9354 5529

Email: vicandgwen@optusnet.com.au

U.K. **Tommy Joyce** UK 01912 843512

Deputy: **Ted Strauss** UK 01453 542566

Email: ted_strauss@btinternet.com

USA/Canada

Les Figg

Email: _____ les_figg@comcast.net

Help...